

PER CAPITA MEDICAL EXPENDITURES

On a per capita basis DOC medical expenditures rose 9.5% in FY 1999, rose 15.6% in FY 2000, declined 3.3% in FY 2001 and rose 8.8% in FY 2002. Accounting aberrations have slightly distorted the year-to-year fluctuations. As a result of budgetary constraints, some medical bills that would normally be paid in FY 1999 were instead paid in FY 2000, artificially lowering FY 1999 expenditures and raising FY 2000 expenditures. In spite of the decline in FY 2001, it appears there is a long-term trend of increasing medical expenditures. The primary reasons for this trend are, in addition to inflation, increased fixed medical costs associated with the opening of 5 new major prisons, an increase in the number of inmates requiring expensive HIV and Hepatitis C treatment, rising inpatient medical service costs, and an aging offender population.

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